



PLACER COUNTY  
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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
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## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Thursday, November 1, 2001, 2:30 p.m.  
Date/Time of Occurrence: Thursday, November 8, 2001, 6:30 p.m.  
Nature of Release: Sheriff's employees to be recognized at annual Honors and Awards Program

Released by: Capt. Rick Armstrong, (530) 889-7816

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

Seven Placer County Sheriff's Department employees will be recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty at the annual Placer County Law Enforcement Agencies Honors and Awards ceremony. Officers countywide will also be honored for acts of valor and community service.

The public is invited to attend this free event on Thursday, November 8, 2001, at the Sunset Community Center, 2650 Sunset Blvd., Rocklin. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 7 p.m. Channel 3 news anchor Kelly Brothers will be the keynote speaker.

Sgt. Matt Holguin, Deputies Van Bogardus and Carol Hilscher, as well as Reserve Deputy Dan Bresynan, are each being bestowed Distinguished Service Commendations for displaying great restraint and bravery while taking an armed, hostile, drunken female into custody. The woman was armed with two large butcher knives and was fighting with another man in a Penryn home when the officers were able to intervene and disarm the woman. No one was injured in the incident.

Deputy Van Bogardus is also receiving a Life Saving Effort award for piloting the sheriff's helicopter in a high-risk, high-altitude situation to rescue a missing skier last winter. The rescue required great expertise on the part of Bogardus and volunteer pilot Art Laguna, who eventually airlifted the 19-year-old victim to safety just after sunset. The pilots are credited for saving the life of the woman who was found soaking wet and not dressed for the frigid conditions.

Sgt. Matt Holguin is also a double award recipient. He will receive the Bronze Medal of Honor for his part in the capture of a murder suspect in Colfax last April 16. The sergeant was the first to arrive on scene after a couple was attacked in their own home. He was able to clear the residence, offer aid to the male victim and ascertain that the female victim was deceased. When it was reported that the suspect was seen in Colfax a short time later, Holguin saw the man enter a restaurant and immediately pursued him, without back-up, and made the arrest.

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Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>

Veteran Detective Bill Summers will receive a Distinguished Service Commendation for his longtime dedication and expertise in criminal investigations. Earlier this year, Summers, a 30-year officer with the department, was named instructor of the year by the Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation. Summers has distinguished himself as an expert in child death investigations and violent crime scene procedures. The detective is also widely known for his work ethic and dedication to the Sheriff's Department, where he serves as a mentor and advisor to many.

For displaying expertise, determination and quick action that resulted in the saving of a woman's life, Deputy Steve Morrill will receive a Distinguished Service Commendation. After volunteer helicopter pilot Bob Bruce landed the sheriff's helicopter under extremely dangerous conditions along the American River, Flight Officer Morrill fought his way downriver to aid a woman who had jumped into the water feet first, driving her femur bone into her pelvis. Despite her critical condition, Morrill was able to comfort her while Bruce toiled as an airborne command center and directed emergency personnel to the rescue area.

The final Distinguished Service Commendation recipient is Dispatcher Brian York, who went to great lengths to locate a missing hiker near Lake Tahoe last February. After contacting the woman on her cellular telephone, York questioned the woman about landmarks in the area and was able to ascertain her location using maps and the Internet. An aircraft confirmed her position and guided rescuers on snowmobiles to the woman. York's ingenuity, resourcefulness and understanding of GPS proved to be the key in quickly finding the lost hiker.

